コンダクター
The Conductor
原作
神永学
Manabu Kaminaga
作画
野奇夜
Nokiya
2
ASUKA COMICS DX

The Conductor

Illustrated by Nokiya

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コンダクター

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The Conductor
第二日目②

コンダクター
The Conductor
ノンストップ・モザイクサスペンス
60P
角川文庫刊
原作 神永学
MANABU KAMINAGA
作画 野奇夜
NOKIYO
DAY 2.2
IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T LOOK.
IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T REALISE.
BECAUSE THIS NIGHTMARE IS NEVER GOING TO END!
2ヶ月連続刊行決定!
(C-DA)「コンダクター」第❶巻&第❷巻 原作 神永学 作画 野奇夜
第❶巻 10月26日(火)発売予定! 第❷巻 11月26日(金)発売予定!

コンダクター

人物紹介

朽木奈緒美
フルート奏者。あるトラブルが無事のきっかけに。

結城康文
指揮者。ミュージカルの代役指揮者に。

玉木和夫
ピアノ奏者。5年前のケガが元でプロを諦める。

松崎
心理カウンセラー

ストーリー（第二日目）

◆いつもの悪夢にうなされ目覚めた奈緒美は、鏡の前に口紅で書かれた「思い出せ」の文字を発見する。無意識の内に自分で書いた事を知り、愕然とする奈緒美。その後秋穂の口から覚えのない「彼」の話を聞き動揺する。夕方、手帳を受け取るために松崎に会うが、その手帳の中に、見ず知らずの男と楽しそうに映っている写真が出てきた。その写真の男はマジックで顔を塗りつぶされていた…。

◆5年前に別れた幸人の結城が海外留学から戻り、ミュージカルの指揮を振ることになった。結城を忘れ、玉木と新たに人生を歩むはずだった秋穂だったが、その心が揺れ動き…。

◆首無しミイラ事件を追う刑事の石倉は、ミイラが手にしていた「写真」に手がかりを求めるが…。

KEYWORD

奈緒美の悪夢

闇の中、音楽ホールに指揮を持った男が現れる。松崎のカウンセリングにより、その男は奈緒美の「知っている」男である可能性があるという。

国立アパート首無し白骨死体連続事件

奈緒美のほむマンションの隣のアパートで首無しミイラが発見される。ミイラの手には写真が握られておりアパートの窓枠には「リンゴ」のマークが描いてあった。ネット上の噂によると現場にリンゴマークを残す殺し屋がいるというのだが。

結城と玉木の「契約」

結城と玉木の間で5年前に交わされ、その際結城は秋穂と別れ留学を決めたという。

FROM THIS PHOTO,
I CAN SEE THAT HE SEEMS TO BE SOMEONE QUITE CLOSE TO YOU
BUT
I JUST DON'T REMEMBER THAT MAN.
YOU REALLY CAN'T REMEMBER?

YES ..
DAY TWO – KUCHIKI NAOMI
DID YOU GO OUT WITH ANY GUYS WHEN YOU WERE A UNIVERSITY STUDENT?
I DON'T KNOW
THIS PERSON'S EXISTENCE IS MISSING, AS IF THERE WAS AN EMPTY HOLE.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT I CAN'T RE-MEMBER HIS FACE,
OR THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN HIS NAME.

YOU'RE AFRAID OF MEN?
THEN WHAT ABOUT AFTER GRADUATION?

SO IT'S ARRHENPHOBIA?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I SUPPOSE IT FEELS LIKE THAT

BUT I HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN AVOIDING MEN SUBCONSCIOUSLY.
AND I DON'T WANT A BOYFRIEND EITHER.
THAT'S AN EXAGGERA...

DO YOU REMEMBER HIS FACE?
YES
NAKATOMI SHINJI-KUN
WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
I DATED SOMEONE WHEN I WAS A SOPHOMORE
HOW ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL?
.. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SORRY
MOVES
IT'S ONLY SPECULATION AT THIS POINT, SO I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SAY
YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORGETTING SOMETHING SPECIFIC
THEN THERE'S NO CHANCE THAT IT'S RETROGRADE AMNESIA
.. I SEE.

KUCHIKI-SAN,
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT YOU HAVE SELECTIVE AMNESIA
SELECTIVE AMNESIA-
THAT'S
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH AMNESIA?
I'M AN AMNESIAC?
I'M SAYING THERE'S A POSSIBILITY

HOW...
I REMEMBER THINGS JUST FINE!
I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS CLEARLY.
SO CALM DOWN FOR NOW.

THAT REMINDS ME, I HAVEN'T EVEN TAKEN ONE SIP.
MOVES

DO YOU THINK OF DEMENTIA WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD AMNESIA?

NOT QUITE

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT DEMENTIA IS THE GENERAL TERM, AND AMNESIA IS JUST ONE OF ITS SYMPTOMS.

SYMPTOMS OF DEMENTIA

DIS-ORIENTA-TION

AMNE-SIA

DIFFICULTY IN THINKING

DIFFICULTY IN RECOGNISING

THEN IS IT A DIFFERENT CONDITION?

YES.

That's normally....

FIRST OF ALL, DEMENTIA IS A STATE IN WHICH THE BRAIN'S FUNCTIONS ARE LOWERED

JUST BECAUSE YOU SAY YOU HAVE A STOMACH ACHE DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU HAVE STOMACH CANCER

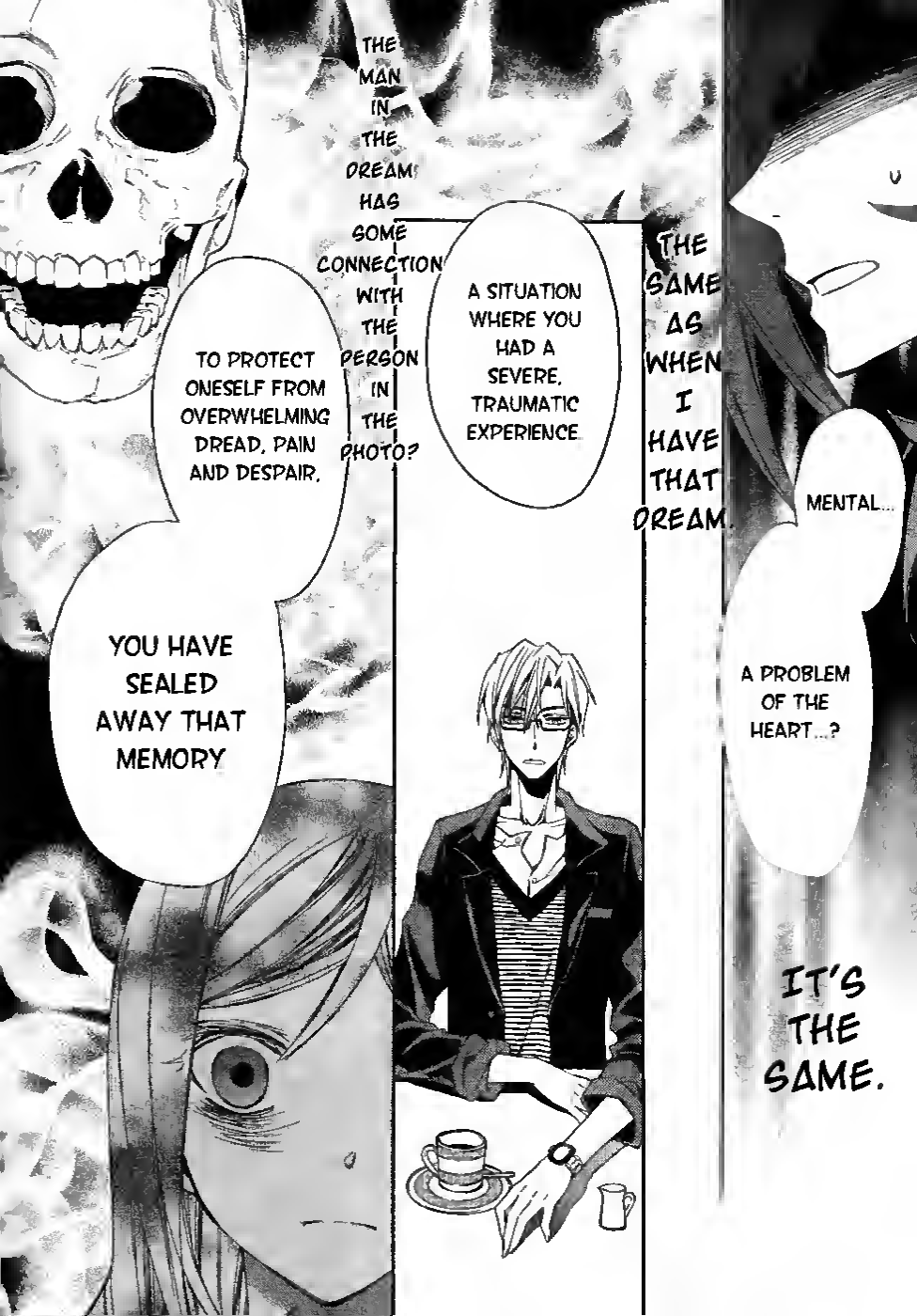
THIS IS THE SAME THING

PEOPLE HAVE TWO TYPES OF MEMORY THE PROCEDURAL MEMORY, WHICH IS RELATED TO SKILLS SUCH AS RIDING A BIKE OR LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT.
AND THE DECLARATIVE MEMORY, WHICH DEALS WITH EPISODIC MEMORIES SUCH AS WHAT YOU DID AT A SPECIFIC TIME OR PLACE
AMNESIA
MAINLY AFFECTS THE DECLARATIVE MEMORY
IT'S EASIER TO UNDERSTAND IF I CALL THEM MEMORIES
IT MEANS THOSE MEMORIES ARE DAMAGED
IN OTHER WORDS, THE SELECTIVE AMNESIA I MENTIONED EARLIER
THE STATE IN WHICH THE MEMORIES YOU CAN RECALL
BECOME MIXED UP WITH THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T.

THERE'S NO WAY THAT
IT DOES HAPPEN
THE EPISODES RELATED TO A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD
OR A SPECIFIC PERSON ARE MISSING
BUT
THEN WOULDN'T THAT MEAN MY MEMORIES WOULD BECOME FRAGMENTED?
I CAN'T SEE THAT PERSON IN THE PICTURE
BEING SOMEONE I WOULD BE ABLE TO FORGET WITHOUT ANY REPERCUSSIONS.

DECLARATIVE MEMORIES ARE PAIRED WITH YOUR FEELINGS,
THERE IS A TENDENCY TO REWRITE YOUR MEMORIES AT YOUR OWN CONVENIENCE
UNLIKE A VIDEO CAMERA, HUMAN MEMORIES DON'T RECORD ACCURATE IMAGES
EVEN IF THERE IS SOMEONE MISSING FROM YOUR MIND, YOUR MEMORIES WILL BE ALTERED IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BE CONSISTENT
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE REALLY FORGOTTEN THIS MAN,
YOU STILL REMEMBER THESE OTHER PEOPLE

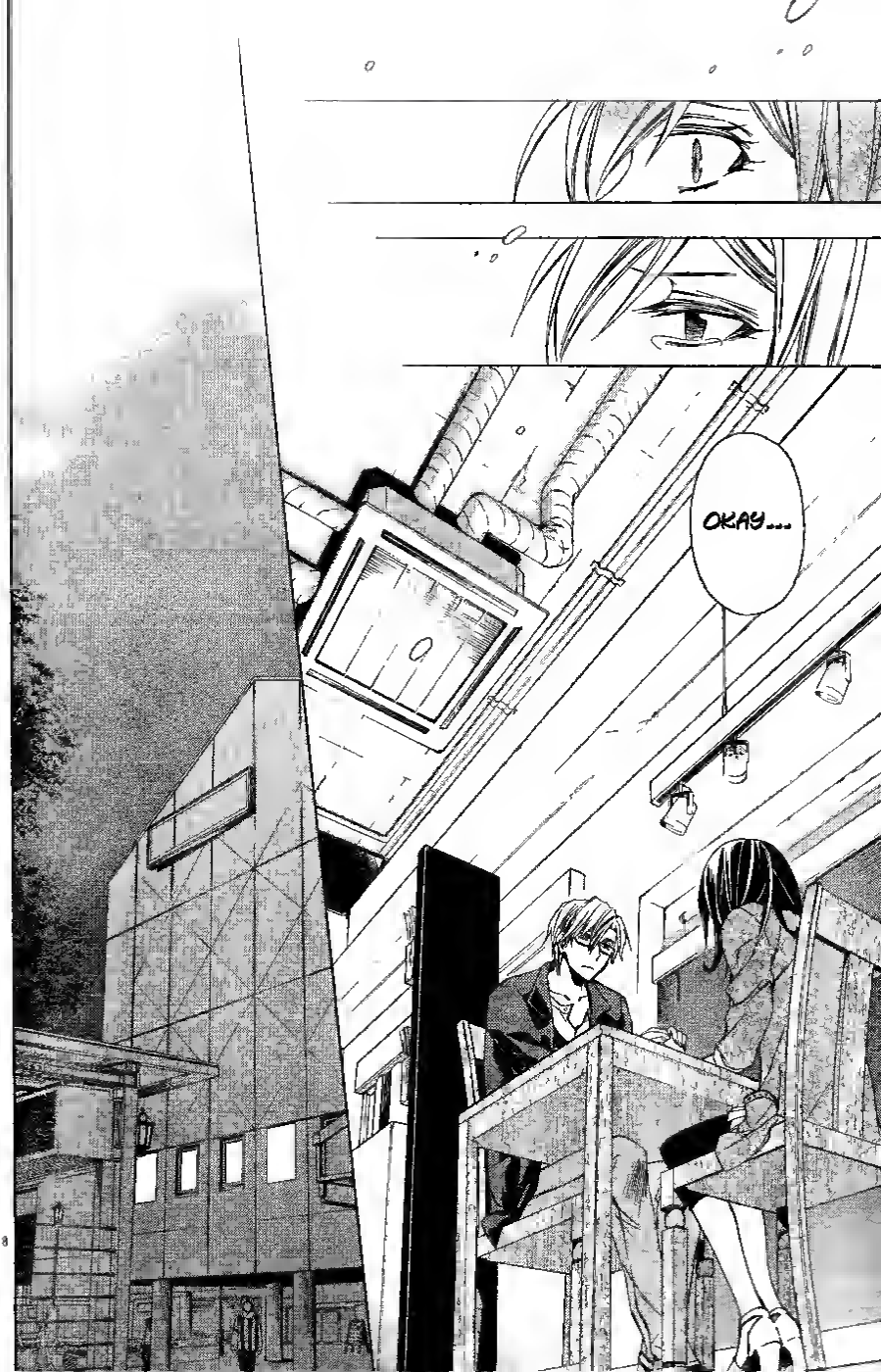
I HAVE PLENTY OF MEMORIES.
I'M SURE THAT...
THE UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE CEREMONY
FRIENDS
THE GRADUATION
BUT
WHY..?
THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT YOUR BRAIN RECEIVED A PHYSICAL TRAUMA
OR IT COULD BE THAT YOU FORGOT FOR A MENTAL REASON


IT'S THE SAME.
A PROBLEM OF THE HEART...?
MENTAL...
THE SAME AS WHEN I HAVE THAT DREAM.
A SITUATION WHERE YOU HAD A SEVERE, TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE
THE MAN IN THE DREAM HAS SOME CONNECTION WITH THE PERSON IN THE PHOTO?
TO PROTECT ONESELF FROM OVERWHELMING DREAD, PAIN AND DESPAIR.
YOU HAVE SEALED AWAY THAT MEMORY

DARKNESS COMES AND CONCEALS MY VISION.

LET'S FIND OUT WHY YOU FORGOT HIM, KUCHIKI-SAN.
THE DARKNESS...
IS FADING AWAY.

IT'S ALL RIGHT,
I'M HERE FOR YOU.


OKAY...

UMM
SO ABOUT THE CASE IN ROOM 201
THE MURDER CASE?
I SAW IT ON THE NEWS
IT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED THAT IT WAS A MURDER YET
DAY TWO – ISHIKURA TSUYOSHI

I SAID THIS ON THE PHONE, BUT THAT ROOM IS UNOCCUPIED
UN-OCCUPIED?
YES
SO WHO HAS THE ROOM KEY ?
OH, THAT I'M THE OWNER, SO ONLY I HAVE THE KEY

I ACTUALLY DECIDED TO HAVE IT DEMOLISHED
THEN SOMEONE PICKED THE LOCK...
IT'S OFTEN VACANT, SO I'VE BEEN THINKING OF REBUILDING
EVEN THE REPAIR COSTS ALONE ARE CONSIDERABLE
DEMOLISHED?
YEAH, AT ANY RATE THE BUILDING IS ALREADY 30 YEARS OLD
WHEN?
IT'S NOT SET IN STONE YET, BUT I'M IN THE PRO-CESS OF PREPARING TO NOTIFY THE CURRENT RESIDENTS

SOMETHING SEEMS SUSPICIOUS
JUST BE QUIET!
CAN I ASK ONE MORE THING?
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THE CRIMINAL KNEW ABOUT THIS BEFOREHAND.
Dejected...
Are you okay?
THAT APARTMENT WASN'T CHOSEN AT RANDOM.
WAS THERE ANYONE WHO CAME TO THAT NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT?

I'M SURE THAT A FEW THINGS WERE CHOSEN FROM SEVERAL PREREQUISITES
AND THEN THAT APARTMENT WAS CHOSEN FROM AMONG THOSE.
...NO
NO CONDOS, BUT AS FOR APARTMENTS...
REALLY!?
GLATTER
AH, I HAD SOMEONE LAST MONTH.
PERHAPS, JUST WAIT A MOMENT...
There it is!
RENT
LIMIT = NONE
TYPE OF RESIDENCE: APARTMENT
ROOM: 1
TIME FRAME: DOESN'T MATTER
DISTANCE: DOESN'T MATTER
PARKING SPACE: NOT NECESSARY
RESIDENTS: THE APPLICANT
I REMEMBER IT BECAUSE IT WAS QUITE A COMPLICATED ORDER

WHY MAKE SUCH A STRANGE REQUEST?
IF THIS PERSON'S GOING TO PAY SO MUCH, THEN WHY NOT LIVE IN A CONDO?
NO LIMIT ON THE RENT,
AND THIS PERSON WANTS AN APART-MENT?
WAS THE CUSTOMER WHO WROTE THIS A MAN OR A WOMAN?
A WOMAN
HER NAME S ON THE OTHER SIDE
ISN'T IT THE SAME AS THAT ROOM?
THE PLACE WITH THIS MARK IS NEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
AND THAT SOUTH-FACING WINDOW..
NORTH EXIT
STATION
SOUTH-FACING WINDOW

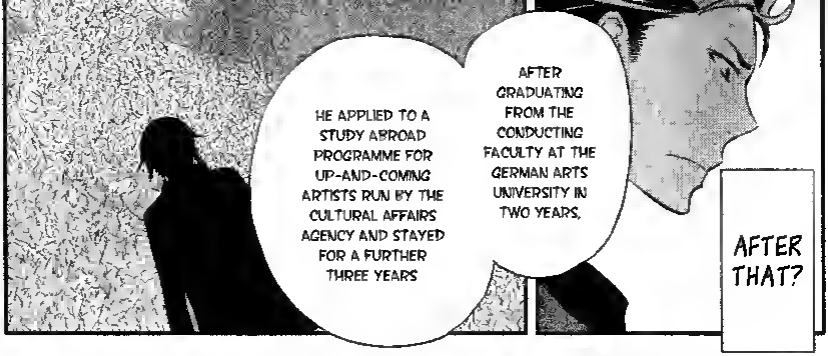
HOWEVER,
I'LL NEED TO INVESTIGATE IT.
THERE'S NO PROOF THAT THIS IS HER REAL NAME.
IT'S FAR MORE LIKELY THIS IS AN ALIAS.
MAYA AKIHO

DAY TWO – TAMAKI KAZUO
THE OLD WOUND ON MY HAND AGAIN.
THROB
AKIHO MIGHT ALREADY KNOW THAT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YUUKI.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A PERCEPTIVE WOMAN.
UMM...
I SUPPOSE SHE'S DISAPPOINTED AT WHAT A PETTY MAN I AM.

AREN'T YOU TAMAKI KAZUO-SAN?
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
AH FORGIVE ME FOR NOT SAYING SOONER
THIS IS WHO I AM.
ウェンズデー
WEDNESDAY
NOJIMA KEISUKE
A REPORTER FROM A WEEKLY PAPER?
I ACTUALLY HAVE SOMETHING I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO ASK YOU...
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOU
NO. I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOU...

IT'S ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR, YUUKI-SAN.
WHY ARE YOU INVESTIGATING YUUKI?
WELL, TALKING HERE WOULD BE A BIT
.....
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
IT WOULD ONLY BE HALF AN HOUR
I DON'T MIND IF YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, THEN DECIDE YOU CAN'T COOPERATE
FINE...

cafe`
I'M NOT.
DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY
the coffee here is really good
YOU PROMISED 30 MINUTES
YEAH
YOU KNOW THAT YUUKI-SAN STUDIED ABROAD IN GERMANY, DON'T YOU?
YES
SO I DID
WHAT ABOUT AFTER THAT?
SO WHAT DID YOU SAY YOU WANT TO ASK ABOUT YUUKI?


AFTER THAT?
AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE CONDUCTING FACULTY AT THE GERMAN ARTS UNIVERSITY IN TWO YEARS,
HE APPLIED TO A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME FOR UP-AND-COMING ARTISTS RUN BY THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS AGENCY AND STAYED FOR A FURTHER THREE YEARS

WELL, HE BASICALLY USED THE COUNTRY'S MONEY TO STUDY ABROAD
being a talented person must be nice
SO HE CAME BACK WHEN THAT WAS OVER?

NO, THE PROGRAMME IS SUPPOSED TO END NEXT MONTH.
BUT HE SUDDENLY STOPPED AND CAME BACK HERE, WHEN HE STILL HAD ONE MONTH LEFT.
WHY?

JUST BEFORE HE CAME BACK, THERE WAS AN INCIDENT INVOLVING THE ORCHESTRA HE WAS A MEMBER OF
DON'T PANIC.
STAY CALM.
THE OFFICIAL REASON IS THAT HE BECAME UNWELL
SO THERE'S AN UNOFFICIAL REASON?
AN INCIDENT?
A VIOLIN PLAYER?
YEAH
SHE WAS DISCOVERED COLLAPSED IN FRONT OF HER APARTMENT
IS THAT TRUE?
YES.
A VIOLIN PLAYER FROM THAT ORCHESTRA DIED.
IT SEEMS THAT SHE FELL FROM A ROOM IN HER APARTMENT
She was apparently in terrible condition.
THE POLICE BEGAN INVESTIGATING IT AS A SUICIDE OR AN ACCIDENT

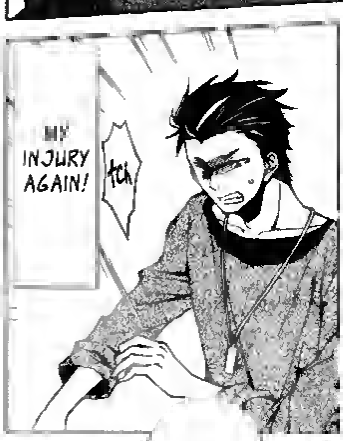
FURTHER-MORE,
YUUKI-SAN RETURNED
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT FEMALE VIOLINIST DIED
THUMP
BUT THE BALCONY IN THAT APARTMENT HAD QUITE A HIGH RAILING
AND THEY ARRIVED AT THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FALL ACCIDENTALLY
BUT
THUMP
THUMP
WASN'T HE SHOCKED BECAUSE A MEMBER OF THE ORCHESTRA DIED?
WELL, HE PRO-BABLY WAS SHOCKED
BECAUSE THAT DEAD WOMAN

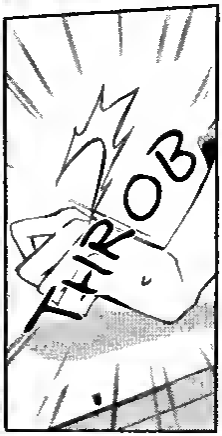
DON'T PANIC.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO.
THUMP
WAS APPARENTLY HIS LOVER.
THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE ELSE EXCEPT US KNOWS ABOUT THAT.
SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE OF HER RELATIONSHIP WITH YUUKI?
IF THAT WAS ALL, THEN I WOULDN'T BE INVESTIGATING IT.
EXCUSE ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT ALTHOUGH YUUKI-SAN SEEMS TO BE A CONDUCTOR WITH MUCH POTENTIAL,
HE'S NOT VERY WELL KNOWN AS HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL ACHIEVEMENTS
EVEN IF I DID WRITE AN ARTICLE, NO ONE WOULD BE INTERESTED.

THEN
WHY ARE YOU STILL INVESTIGATING IT?
THE TRUTH IS, AFTER YUUKI-SAN RETURNED
A RUMOUR BEGAN SPREADING IN THE ORCHESTRA
THE VIOLINIST WHO DIED
DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE.
IT CAN'T BE...

CALM DOWN
THIS MAY BE AN IMPOLITE WAY OF PUTTING IT
BUT AS I AM INVESTIGATING THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE TRUTH
YUUKI KILLED THAT WOMAN?
THAT'S COMPLETE BULL-
WHY AM I REMEM-BERING AKIHO NOW?
CHAPTER 7

CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT FOR CERTAIN?


MY INJURY AGAIN!
tch


THROB

I WANT YOU TO
INVESTIGATE YUUKI-SAN'S ACTIONS FOR A WHILE

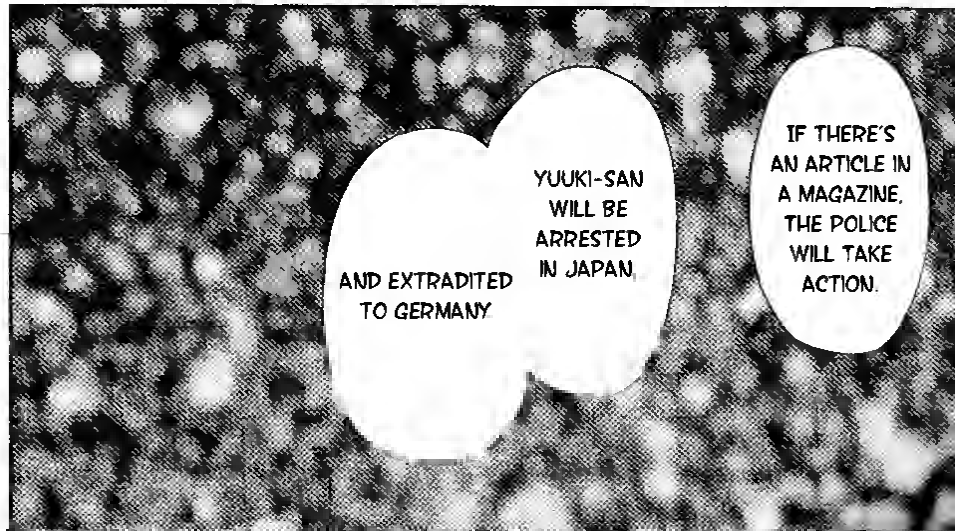
THE LOCAL POLICE ARE ALSO SHOWING AN INTEREST IN THE MATTER
THEY'RE SAYING "THE BEAUTIFUL VIOLINIST WAS MURDERED BY THE EXCHANGE STUDENT CONDUCTOR!"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS IN MUNICH
I CAN'T HELP YOU
BESIDES, YUUKI IS MY FRIEND FROM UNIVERSITY
OF COURSE I'M AWARE OF THAT
AND ALSO THAT YOUR FIANCÉE MAYA-SAN
WAS ONE YUUKI-SAN'S LOVERS

WHA...
HE INVESTIGATED THAT MUCH!
I CAN'T DENY THAT, BUT...
ISN'T YUUKI-SAN IN THE WAY, HOLDING BACK YOUR MARRIAGE WITH MAYA-SAN?
AND SO WHAT? WE'VE ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR THAT WAS IN THE PAST.
MOVES
I'M NOT A PETTY AND JEALOUS MAN THAT WOULD TRICK YUUKI..
BUT IF YUUKI-SAN WAS A COLD-BLOODED KILLER.

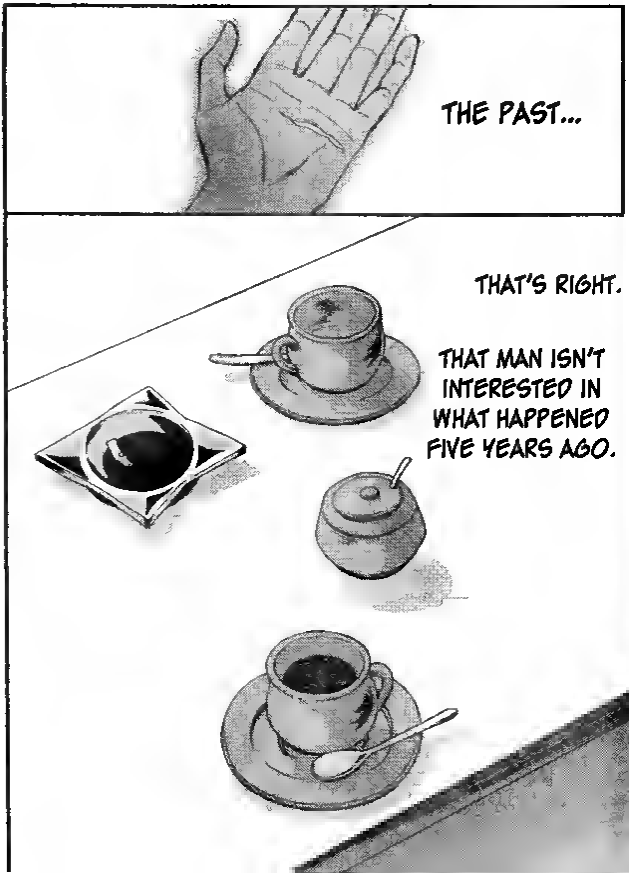
YOUR FIANCÉE MIGHT BE HIS NEXT VICTIM.

THEN JUST TELL THE POLICE
YOU KNOW THAT THE POLICE CAN'T MAKE A MOVE YET
FOR STARTERS, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF THAT YUUKI KILLED ANYONE!
SO
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING THAT I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE HIS ACTIONS.


IF THERE'S AN ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE, THE POLICE WILL TAKE ACTION.
YUUKI-SAN WILL BE ARRESTED IN JAPAN
AND EXTRADITED TO GERMANY

GRAB
BAM
HOW ABOUT IT?
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOUR HAPPINESS?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ME RIGHT NOW
THROB
MY LEFT HAND IS...
I'LL HAVE SOME EVIDENCE THAT WILL MAKE YOU AGREE READY BY TOMORROW
IT WON'T BE TOO LATE IF YOU DECIDE AFTER SEEING THAT

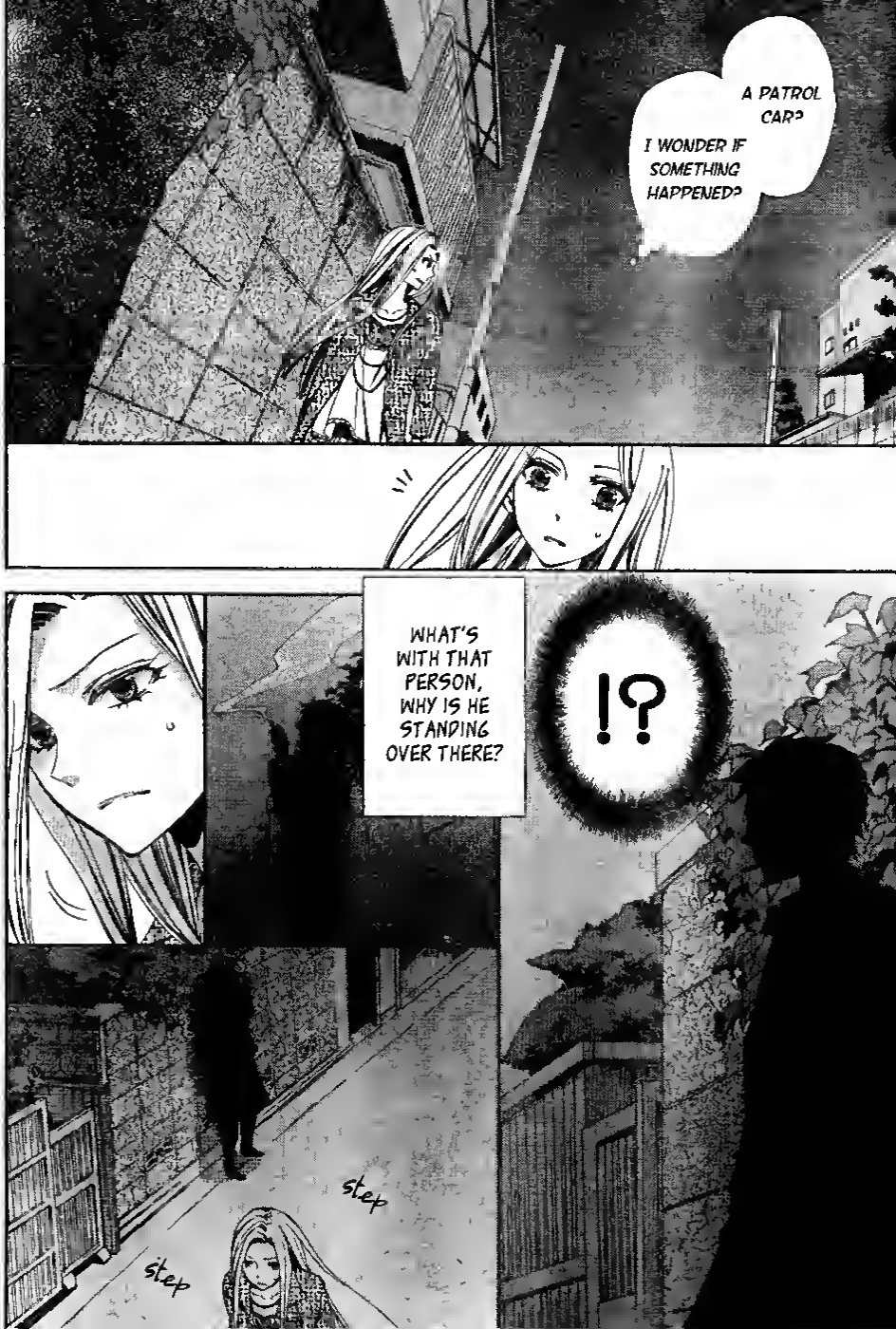
YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO BE HAUNTED BY YOUR PAST FOREVER EITHER



THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
INSTEAD, IF THINGS ARE AS HE SAID,
EVERYTHING WOULD GO WELL.
DAY TWO – MAYA AKIHO

I CAN UNDERSTAND WITHOUT HIM TELLING ME.
THE DARK AND HEAVY FEELINGS OF JEALOUSY COMING FROM HIS GAZE.
BECAUSE I'M TIRED TODAY.
WHAT'S WITH HIS ATTITUDE?
VROOM
DO YOU STILL LOVE YUUKI?
OF COURSE I WAS IN LOVE WITH YUUKI.
BUT EVEN HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND HOW I WAS FEELING WHEN I BROKE UP WITH YUUKI, FIVE YEARS AGO.

JUST LIKE THE FEELINGS I HAD FOR YUUKI WEREN'T A LIE,
THE FEELINGS I HAVE FOR TAMAKI NOW ARE ALSO TRUE...
EVEN IF YOU SAID JUST ONE WORD, "SORRY" ...
BUT IF I WERE TO CALL HIM,
IT WOULD SEEM LIKE I WAS MAKING EXCUSES.
HEH
I CAN'T ERASE THE PAST, YOU KNOW.
WOO
WOO


A PATROL CAR?
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED?
!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT PERSON, WHY IS HE STANDING OVER THERE?
step
step

step
step
step
HE'S FOLLOWING ME?!
step
step
step
step
AH...
NO!!
WHA...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WHAT WAS THAT ?

I DON'T THINK ANYTHING TRAUMATIC HAPPENED.
MY LIFE WAS VERY NORMAL.
SELECTIVE AMNESIA...
THEN WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD I BELIEVE?
OR IF I'VE JUST FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT...
SINCE I CAN'T EVEN TRUST MY OWN MEMORIES...

I'VE HAD IT ALL ALONG, BUT I NEVER NOTICED UNTIL NOW...
ANYWAY, HOW LONG HAS THIS PHOTO BEEN INSIDE MY NOTEBOOK?
NO WAY!

MY FACE WAS SO RED.
giggle
THIS IS FROM THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY...
THIS IS FROM THE WELCOME PARTY FOR NEW STUDENTS...
AND...
BAM

THIS...
AND THIS...
AND THIS TOO...!

drip
drip
drip
...TELL ME...
TELL ME...!

WHO ARE YOU?
MY CHEST FEELS PAINFUL, LIKE IT'S BEING CRUSHED.
PAINFUL...

THE PHONE?
HELLO?
YES
AM I SPEAKING TO KUCHIKI-SAN?
YES
WE MET YESTERDAY, I'M ARAGAKI FROM KUNITACHI POLICE STATION.
HAVE YOU GOT SOME TIME RIGHT NOW?
OKAY
I DID A LITTLE INVESTIGATING AND THE APARTMENT THAT WAS THE SCENE OF THE CRIME CAN BE SEEN FROM YOUR PLACE.

YES...
WHEN DID YOU START LIVING IN THAT APARTMENT?
WHEN I GRADUATED FROM UNI-VERSITY... SO ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO
IS THAT SO?
COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE A QUICK LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW RIGHT NOW?
AH, I SEE YOU.
WHY ARE YOU...
SORRY, I WAS MERELY CONFIRMING SOMETHING.
CONFIRMING WHAT?

TO TELL THE TRUTH
ONLY THE WINDOW OF YOUR ROOM CAN BE SEEN FROM THIS APARTMENT
THE DESIGN OF YOUR APARTMENT IS A LITTLE STRANGE. YOU CAN ONLY SEE THIS PLACE FROM THE CORNER ROOM OF YOUR APARTMENT.
THE FLOOR BELOW IS BLOCKED BY A FENCE SO YOU CAN'T SEE.
THE FLOOR ABOVE IS VACANT.
WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A FUSS OVER THIS PLACE?
THERE'S A BUILDING NEXT DOOR TOO!
THAT'S TRUE.
THAT'S WHY I WAS JUST CONFIRMING IT.
click

He hung up.
SWOOSH
WHAT THE..!
WHAT KIND OF INCIDENT WAS IT?
I'M SURE IT MUST BE ON THE NEWS...
AN ENTERPRISE THINKING OF NATURE...
beep
THEN LET'S GO TO THE NEXT ISSUE
beep
beep
...THE SKELETON DISCOVERED IN AN APARTMENT...
IT'S THAT APARTMENT.

THE HEAD HAS BEEN SEVERED.
ITS LOCATION IS AS YET UNKNOWN.
IT HAS... NO HEAD?
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
THAT DREAM...
BA-THUMP

IS THIS
JUST A COINCIDENCE?!
THE DREAM THAT CORNERS NAOMI AND THE HEADLESS MUMMY ...HOW ARE THEY CONNECTED?!

Wasuretai & The Zero Alliance

http://sa'ron.mkn.b'g.s.o'.com http://eezah.wo'.r-ss.co.

in collaboration with the Hayana Team and La Noche de los Gatos

Publisher: Kadokawa Shoten
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Artist: Noki Ya

Scanner: Ayu
Cleaners: Erea & Luna
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Translation Checker: Yukihito
Proofreaders: Sapphire Pyro & Yukihito
Typesetters: Caro & Sapphire Pyro
Quality Checkers: Sapphire Pyro, & Yukihito

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The Conducter

2か月連続刊行決定!
『コンダクター』第1巻&第2巻
第1巻10月26日(火)発売予定!
第2巻11月26日(金)発売予定!
神永学原作コミック
2か月連続刊行記念!
「コミック4」
キャンペーン実施!
THE WONDERFUL MUSIC IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
SING, SOAR AND DANCE
TO THE EXCELLENT MUSIC
THAT I CONDUCT.
Day 3
The Conductor
角川文庫刊
NONSTOP - MOBILE SUSPENSE
MANABU KAMINAGA
ORIGINAL WORK
NOKIYA
ILLUSTRATIONS

FIVE YEARS AGO...
...AT THE GRADUATION PERFOR-MANCE OF THE CON-SERVATORY OF MUSIC AT OPERA CITY.
AT THE START OF A BRILLIANT FUTURE
WHICH I HAD GAINED AFTER PUTTING EVERYTHING ON THE LINE...

FROM THEN ON, MY LIFE SHOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE BRILLIANT...
THE PIECE WAS BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NUMBER 9 IN D MINOR, OPUS 125,
COMMONLY KNOWN AS "ODE TO JOY".

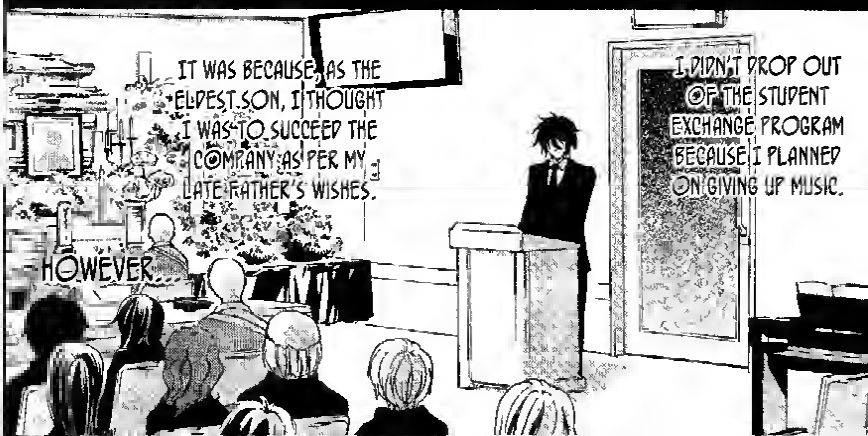
DULL - 20
DULL - 20
DAY THREE - YUUKI YASUFUMI
MY CELL-PHONE...
JUST WHEN I HAD SOME PEACE AND QUIET.
HELLO?
beep
MY APOLOGIES FOR CALLING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING THIS IS THE PRODUCER, RIBA
DO YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME?
2003 Opera City
HOW WAS THE FIRST DAY OF REHEARSALS?
YES, IT'S FINE.

THAT'S REASSURING TO HEAR.
YESTERDAY WAS JUST SOMETHING OF A WARM-UP
THERE IS SOME VARIATION IN TERMS OF ABILITY, BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THEM INTO SHAPE IN TIME FOR THE PERFORMANCE
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU CALLED FOR, IS IT?
WELL, IT ISN'T LONG UNTIL THE PER-FORMANCE
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL GET THEM READY
THERE ARE TWO THINGS I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT
THE FIRST IS REGARDING THE REHEARSALS. THE DIRECTOR WOULD LIKE TO START REHEARSING TOGETHER TOMORROW
THE SECOND MATTER CONCERNS OUR PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS...

TN: Approx. $37,470 USD at the time of translation

THIS IS ALL THE MONEY

I INHERITED FROM MY FATHER WHEN HE PASSED AWAY LAST MONTH.


IT WAS BECAUSE, AS THE ELDEST SON, I THOUGHT I WAS TO SUCCEED THE COMPANY AS PER MY LATE FATHER'S WISHES.
HOWEVER...
I DIDN'T DROP OUT OF THE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM BECAUSE I PLANNED ON GIVING UP MUSIC.

BUT...
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'D BE BEST IF YOU SUCCEED THE COMPANY.
I COULDN'T GRASP WHY I, THE ELDEST SON,
WAS ONLY GIVEN THIS PENTHOUSE AND LUMP SUM OF 30,000,000 YEN.
MANY THANKS.
NOW I FEEL REASSURED

"LET ME TAKE CARE OF THE COMPANY.
YOU SHOULD CONTINUE WITH THE MUSIC YOU LOVE, BROTHER."

I'LL TRUST YOU FOR NOW THEN
GOODBYE
OF COURSE, WE'VE EXCHANGED WRITTEN CONTRACTS DON'T WORRY
YOU'LL ALSO KEEP YOUR SIDE OF THE AGREEMENT PROMISING ME 40% OF THE PROFITS
I'LL ADMIT IT, I'M GREEDY.
HEH...
HEHE...
AHAHAHA

SPLASH
EVEN I CANNOT DENY MY OLD MAN'S BLOOD.
YESTERDAY SURE WAS A LETDOWN
Surgical Reception
WHEN THE ADDRESS OF THAT MAYA AKIHO LADY TURNED OUT TO BE THE CEMETERY IN FRONT OF TAMAGAWA JOUSUI STATION,
I GOT ALL FIRED UP THINKING WE'D GOTTEN ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE CULPRIT

IT WASN'T RANDOM.
BUT NO, IT WAS JUST SOME RANDOM ADDRESS.
EVEN IF WE DID FIND SOMETHING, IT WOULD ONLY BE WHAT THEY HAD LEFT BEHIND DELIBERATELY.
THAT ADDRESS WAS WRITTEN ON PURPOSE BECAUSE THEY KNEW THE POLICE WOULD MAKE A MOVE.
BUT THE PEOPLE INVESTIGATING THE MUMMY MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN SOMETHING.
DR. MATSU-MOTO! DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
DAY THREE - ISHIKURA TSUYOSHI

WELL?
HOW OLD IS THIS THING?
EVEN IF YOU ASK ME THAT,
MY JOB IS JUST TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE AUTOPSY
SO IT WAS DUG UP RECENTLY THEN?
WE HAVEN T COME UP WITH ANY FORMAL CONCLUSIONS YET, BUT JUDGING FROM THE CONDITION, WE THINK IT MAY HAVE BEEN BURIED FOR AT LEAST FOUR YEARS
JUST WHAT IS THE CULPRIT AFTER?
THERE IS A VERY HIGH PROBABILITY THAT THAT IS THE CASE
FOR FOUR YEARS, NO INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN MADE.
IF THEY'D KEPT IT BURIED, NO ONE WOULD HAVE EVER KNOWN ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

COULD IT BE SOMEONE WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE?
NO, THAT MUCH KNOWLEDGE WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY
THE BONE HAS BEEN SEVERED BY A SHARP OBJECT WITH A CLEAN CUT TO THE JOINTS.
THE HEAD MUST HAVE BEEN DE-CAPITATED AFTER IT WAS UNEARTHED.
A FRESH CUT CAN BE SEEN ON THE BONE OF THE NECK
WAS THE HEAD ATTACHED WHEN IT WAS BURIED?
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
BUT I'M SURE THAT IT WAS DONE BY A VERY METICULOUS PERSON.

WHY YES. ALTHOUGH THE LEFT HAND, LEFT PELVIS AND LEFT FEMUR WERE ALL SEVERELY DAMAGED,
THEY PROBA-BLY WEREN'T THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH
BUT HIS BONES WERE BROKEN, WEREN'T THEY?
BECAUSE OF THE BODY'S CONDITION, WE'LL NEED SOME MORE TIME...
ANYTHING ON THE CAUSE OF DEATH?
IS THERE A REASON WHY ALL THE FRACTURES ARE ON THE LEFT SIDE?
.....
SINCE THE HEAD IS MISSING, I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE
SO THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION...

IF WE ASSUME THAT THIS PERSON DIED AFTER BEING ASSAULTED, IT WOULD BE QUITE UNUSUAL FOR THE FRACTURES TO ONLY BE ON THE LEFT SIDE
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THESE INJURIES WERE CAUSED BY AN ACCIDENT.
NOW, CONSIDER THE LOCATIONS OF THE FRACTURES.
HERE.
HERE.
AND HERE...
WELL, THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION AT PRESENT.
...SOMEONE COULD HAVE HIT HIM WITH A CAR, AND THEN BURIED THE BODY SO NO ONE WOULD FIND OUT?

HMM~ BUT IF THAT WAS THE CASE, WHY WOULD THEY DIG IT UP AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
HOW UNUSUAL
Well that's your part of the job, innit? Find out yourself
Aww, c'mon~
THANKS FOR THE INFO
WHA-
WAIT UP INSPECTOR ISHIKURA, I'M COMING TOO!
Examination Room 2
YOU DON'T DIG UP A CORPSE FOR NO REASON.
YOU DON'T RANDOMLY LOP OFF THE HEAD EITHER THAT ALONE MUST HAVE SOME REASON BEHIND IT
IF WE DON'T SOLVE THIS RIDDLE, WE'LL NEVER CATCH THE CULPRIT.

HE SURE IS A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK...
DAY THREE - KUCHIKI NAOMI

I COULDN'T SLEEP A WINK.
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FALLEN ASLEEP EARLY THIS MORNING...
I...
HAD THAT DREAM AGAIN.
IF I DON'T GET UP SOON, I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO REHEARSAL.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO MOVE.
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE THE DAY OFF...
MY PHONE?

GOOD MORNING
I'M SORRY FOR THE SUDDEN CALL
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO DO FOR ME, NAOMI.
YES?
THIS IS MATSUZAKI
DOCTOR?!

HE USED MY FIRST NAME?
SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE ME TO DO?
YES. IT'S SOMETHING NECESSARY FOR YOU TO REGAIN YOUR MEMORIES
THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE IN THAT PHOTO YOU SHOWED ME YESTERDAY, AM I RIGHT?

IS THERE A WAY FOR YOU TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THOSE PEOPLE?
YES, WE WORK TOGETHER
THAT'S GOOD
ASK THEM WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT THE PERSON IN THE PICTURE
AND HOW THEY KNEW HIM
OH.. OK.
I WAS SO OVERWHELMED WITH SHOCK
THAT I NEVER THOUGHT OF THIS!

YES!
CAN YOU DO IT?
WEREN'T YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD NEVER FORGET ABOUT IT?
YESTERDAY, AKIHO MENTIONED "IT".
THAT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE PERSON IN THE PICTURE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING THEY SAY
WHAT IS IT?
NAOMI, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHEN YOU ASK THEM
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THEY MAY LIE TO YOU.

LIE...?
AKIHO AND THE OTHERS MIGHT...?
YES, EITHER BECAUSE THEY HARBOUR ILL INTENT...
OR BECAUSE THEY DON'T WISH TO HARM YOU.

I SEE...
I'VE GOT TO LOOK AT THIS OBJECTIVELY.
I UNDER-STAND
OK
beep
WELL THEN, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIND ANYTHING
IN THE EVENT OF MEMORY LOSS
ONE IS INCLINED TO TAKE LIES AS THE TRUTH
AND USE THEM TO OVERWRITE THEIR OWN MEMORIES

AKIHO'S NOT HERE YET...?
TAMAKI!
WHERE'S AKIHO?
DUNNO
PUNCH

TAMAKI,
OH...YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER?
NOPE.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN THEM BECAUSE OF YUUKI?
PRACTICE IS STARTING, I WONDER WHY SHE'S NOT HERE...
TAP
TAP
SOMEONE'S MISSING

KUCHIKI, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER TODAY
TAMAKI,
HOW ABOUT YOU?
WHY ASK ME?
WHY?
MAYBE BECAUSE YOU'RE THE CONCERT-MASTER?
WE ONLY HAVE TWO VIOLINS FOR THIS PERFORMANCE WE CAN'T REHEARSE IF WE'RE MISSING ONE, BUT THE CONCERTMASTER JUST SAYS, "I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS"
I'LL TRY CALLING HER

step
step
AKI-
HO...
step
step
CALL AHEAD IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING SO BASIC

I'M SORRY.
...WHATEVER.
THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE BEFORE WE START PRACTICE
THIS IS MR.KASHIWAI, WHO'S IN CHARGE OF DIRECTING THE MUSICAL.
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
He's just gonna wave?
Seriously?
LET'S GET STARTED.

STOP!
TRUMPET! YOUR TIMING'S OFF!
IT'S NOT TA-TATAN, IT'S TA-N-TATAN
AND YOU, FLUTE!
YOUR FORTE'S TOO SOFT
OKAY
ONCE AGAIN, FROM THE TOP
NOT GOOD.
I HAVE TO CON-CENTRATE.
EVEN IF WE DO HAVE MICS, THINK OF THE BALANCE, PICK A VOLUME, AND STICK WITH IT!

YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE A NOTE?
UNDER-STOOD
... VIOLIN, YOUR RHYTHM'S OFF IT'S TA-RARA
ALSO, YOUR ACCENTS ARE WEAK THERE'S A REASON WHY THEY'RE MARKED, SO FOLLOW WHAT'S WRITTEN
I'M FINE
MY MY, WHAT A FINE MOOD YOU'RE IN
IS IT BECAUSE YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
NO, EVERY-THING'S FINE
.....

ALRIGHT THEN
ONCE MORE, FROM THE TOP
PIANO!
MY CONDUCTING IS FOR EVERYONE TO FOLLOW!
STOP THINKING IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL

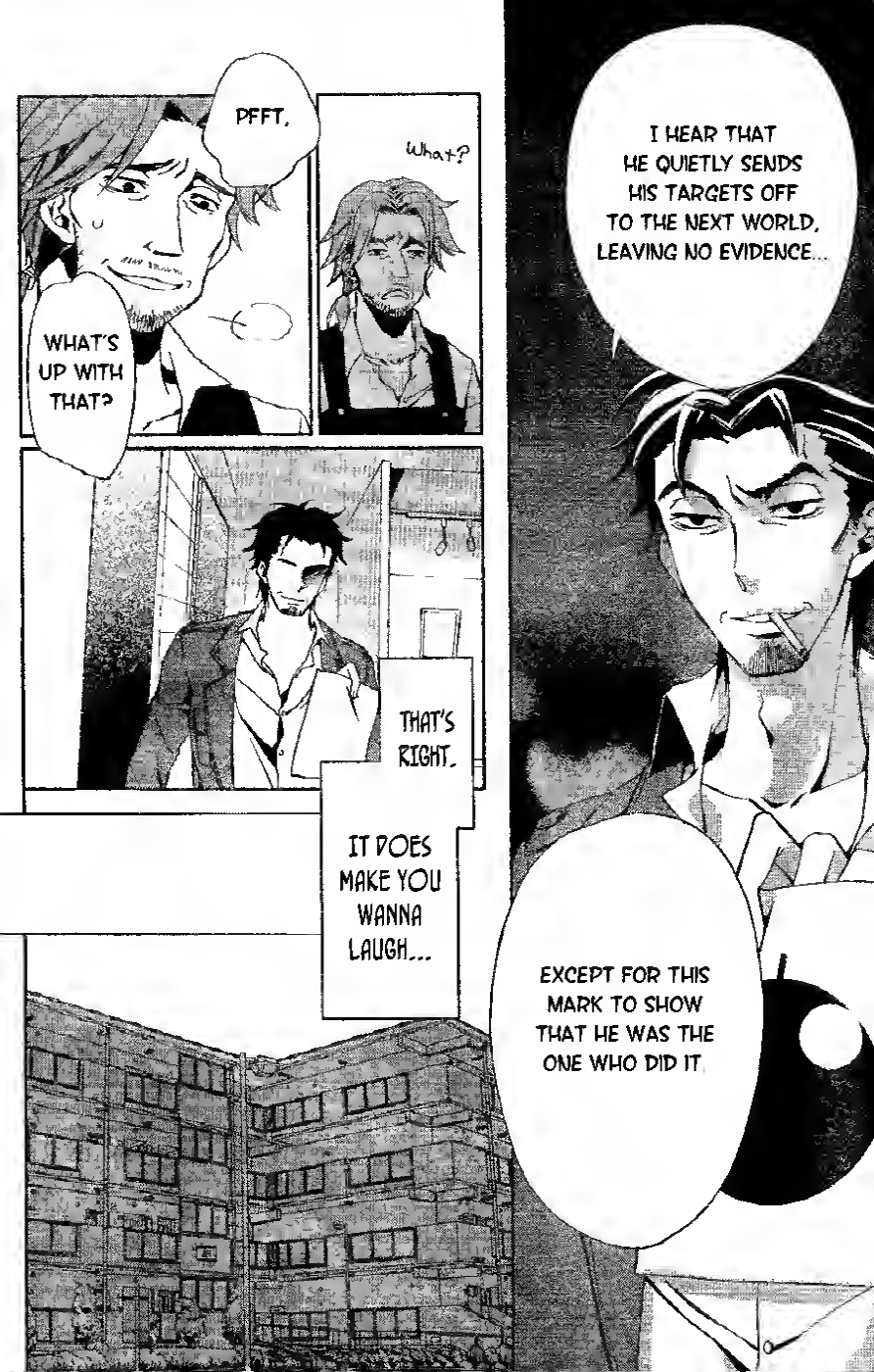
IT'S GRATING LIKE A RUSTED SET OF GEARS...
I'M SORRY.
AND AREN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE TWO PIANOS ?
AH...
THE SOUND...

WE'RE NOT OPEN YET!
Creak
Bar
ISHI-KURA?!
NICE SERVICE
W-
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
TO GET A DRINK
glub glub

I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE COME BACK WHEN WE'RE OPEN
I DON'T MIND LEAVING, BUT ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN GIVE ME?
PLEASE, JUST LET ME GO!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP HOUNDING ME?!
CRACK!!
HEY,
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A BIG SHOT?

ARE YOU GOING TO TURN AGAINST ME, EVEN THOUGH I CHOSE TO OVERLOOK WHAT YOU DID?
WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THIS BUSINESS TO SURVIVE?
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU DID WHEN YOU WERE DROWNING IN DEBT AND SAID YOU WERE GOING TO OPEN A SHOP IN SHINJUKU.
I...
I'M SORRY OFFICER
JUST HAND IT OVER
HOW MUCH?
THE USUAL AMOUNT

...17, 18, 19
AND THAT MAKES 200K.
ONE MORE QUESTION.
THIS MARK, DO YOU RECOGNIZE IT?
I... I'VE NEVER SEEN IT.
REALLY?
WHAT IS IT?
A MARK LEFT BY AN ASSASSIN.


I HEAR THAT HE QUIETLY SENDS HIS TARGETS OFF TO THE NEXT WORLD, LEAVING NO EVIDENCE...
EXCEPT FOR THIS MARK TO SHOW THAT HE WAS THE ONE WHO DID IT
PFFT.
What?
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT DOES MAKE YOU WANNA LAUGH...

YOU!!
YES?
CREAK
ding dong
WHY...
WHY ARE YOU...
SLAM
KYAA

WHAT THE-
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
.....
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS ROOM?
IT WASN'T LIKE THIS WHEN WE LIVED TO-GETHER
THIS ROOM
AND YOU, NORIKO!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?

CLATTER
CLATTER
GET YOUR ASS OUT HERE, NOW!!!
WHA
WHAT?
WHAM!

UGH
SO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
STOP!
GRAB
UH
UHH
PUNCH
STOP IT-
KYA!

AND WHAT IS THIS MONEY?
LOOKIE HERE,
IT'S THE MONEY YOU VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR
CH-
CHILD SUPPORT...
THAT'S RIGHT, I REMEMBER AGREEING TO PAY AKIRA'S EXPENSES.
BUT I DO NOT SEEM TO RECALL SAYING I'D PAY FOR YOUR BETS ON THE RACE-TRACKS
AND WHAT IS CHILD SUPPORT FOR ?
F-
FOR THE CHILD'S EX-PENSES...

I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME.
IF YOU SPEND EVEN A YEN OF THIS CASH FOR YOUR OWN ENTERTAINMENT,
SLAM
I'LL... HMM, WHAT SHALL I DO...
I'LL THROW YOU OFF THE ROOF OF THIS COMPLEX.
WELL?
EEK...
EEP...
THIS WORTHLESS LUMP OF TRASH...

ENOUGH!
WHAM
NOOOOOO
STOOOOP!
I BEG YOU! PLEASE STOP!!
NOOOOOO
STOP IT!!!
STOP!
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
AAAH
A WOMAN'S SCREAM
SURE FEELS GOOD.
KYAAAAA
THWO
THWO
THWO
THWO
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,
I THINK I'VE HEARD ANOTHER WOMAN SCREAM LIKE THIS BEFORE.

DON'T FORGET OUR AGREEMENT.
FLING
KYAA!
SLAM

I CAN'T LEAVE AKIRA IN THAT DUMP OF A HOUSE ANY LONGER.
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT SOONER.
I FEEL LIKE I'M ON CLOUD NINE.
AND PROVE THAT THE DIVORCE CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF THEIR INFIDELITY.
I'LL FIND A GOOD LAWYER,
I'M GOING TO APPEAL FOR CUSTODY AGAIN.
IF I DRAW ATTENTION TO THAT DISGUSTING HOME ENVIRONMENT, I CAN WIN.

THAT'S WHY
PTOO
I NEED MONEY.
HEY, NAOMI
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO AND GRAB LUNCH TOGETHER?

OH,
SURE!
THAT'S GREAT! AKIHO'S BACK TO NORMAL.
And then that show yesterday...
Really?
YO!
I THOUGHT WE COULD HEAD HOME TOGETHER
I'M EATING LUNCH WITH NAOMI
AH,
I'LL BE FINE
I'LL HEAD HOME FOR THE DAY

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, NAOMI
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU TALKED IT OUT?
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT...
LET'S GO.
SORRY AND THANKS...
I'LL ASK HER WHAT'S UP

THIS IS A PRETTY NICE PLACE
I KNOW, RIGHT?
THE FOOD'S NOT BAD EITHER
I CAME HERE ONCE WHEN I WAS STILL AT THE CONSERV-ATORY
HM?
WHO DID I COME WITH AGAIN...?
ARE YOU OK?
OH, NO IT'S NOTHING
clink
HEY,
WHEN ARE YOU HAVING THE WEDDING CEREMONY?

I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A PLEASANT CHAT, BUT...
DID TAMAKI SAY ANYTHING ABOUT YUUKI?
IT'S PLANNED FOR JUNE
THE VENUE?
A CHURCH IN OMOTESANDŌ
T/N: Omotesando is a pretty high class area
NO...
I REALLY HOPE THEY CAN BE HAPPY...
BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO FRUSTRATING
OF COURSE HE IS
HE'S NOT WORRYING ABOUT IT, IS HE?
YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HIS FACE
BUT HE GOES AROUND ACTING LIKE IT'S NOTHING
I'M NOT TAKING SIDES WITH YUUKI OR TAMAKI.

YOU'RE NOT, ARE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT!
HE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT HE STILL SUSPECTS THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH YUUKI
I DON'T THINK HE'S TRYING TO DO THAT.
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO GET HURT.
It's ok.
Sorry...
WITH THE WAY HE'S BEEN LOOKING AT ME RECENTLY,
LIVING WITH HIM IS IMPOSSIBLE.
I DON'T KNOW.
THEN YOU MUST LOVE TAMAKI A LOT

I SHOULD JUST
TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT
BUT YOU'RE STILL WEARING THE RING.
HONESTLY,
I'M GETTING TIRED OF IT
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME, WHAT ABOUT YOU, NAOMI?
HM?
IF THERE WERE, I'D TELL YOU
YOU DON'T WANT A BOYFRIEND?
DON'T "HM?" ME
AREN'T THERE ANY GOOD GUYS AROUND YOU?
WELL, NOW'S NOT REALLY THE TIME FOR THAT..

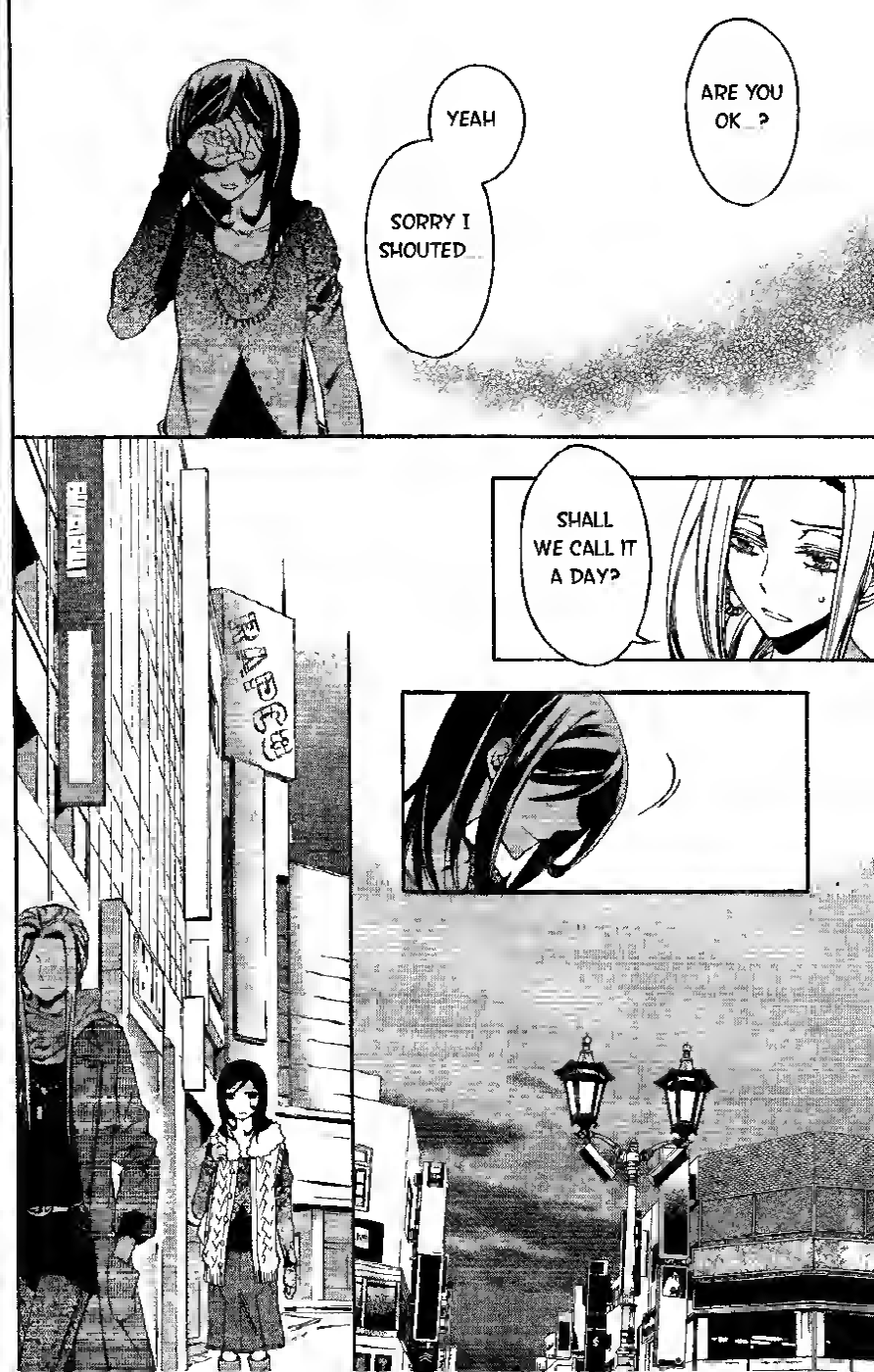
.....
UMM,
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU
ASK ME?
YES. CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING
THIS...
YOU DID THIS?
I DON'T KNOW
YOU DON'T KNOW!? BUT THIS IS YOURS. ISN'T IT?
THAT'S RIGHT BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING
NOTHING ABOUT WHO SCRATCHED OUT THE FACE.
OR WHO WAS SCRATCHED OUT
...YOU'RE KIDDING...
RIGHT NOW... I'M SEEING A COUNSELOR.

PARTIAL AMNESIA?
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
THAT CAN'T BE
PLEASE TELL ME.
WHO IS HE?

I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL HIS NAME EITHER.
...WHO WAS HE AGAIN?
YOU KNOW DON'T YOU?
NOT AT ALL
THERE ARE MANY INSTANCES WHEN YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHO'S IN A PICTURE
"THEY MAY LIE TO YOU..."
PLEASE,
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW
NAOMI

I...
YOU SHOULD CALM DOWN. I'M SURE YOU'LL REMEMBER IT EVENTUALLY
ACTUALLY, THERE'S
PLEASE DON'T AVOID MY QUESTION!
I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE TELL ME!!
CLATTER


ARE YOU OK...?
YEAH
SORRY I SHOUTED...
SHALL WE CALL IT A DAY?

AKIHO
KNOWS SOME-THING ABOUT HIM.
BUT I'M SURE THERE'S A REASON WHY SHE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
IF YOU WON'T TELL ME,
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT MYSELF.
IT'D PROBABLY BE BETTER IF YOU JUST FORGOT ABOUT TAKUMI.

TAKUMI...
IS THAT HIS NAME?
NAOMI'S LOST PAST IS SLOWLY COMING TO LIGHT...
WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN "TAKUMI" AND NAOMI?
12月号 10月23日発売 につづく ★ To Be Continued...

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Author: Kaminaga Manabu
Artist: Noki Ya

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Scanner: Ayu
Translator: Sen
Translation Checker: Yukihito
Cleaner & Redrawer: Smeh
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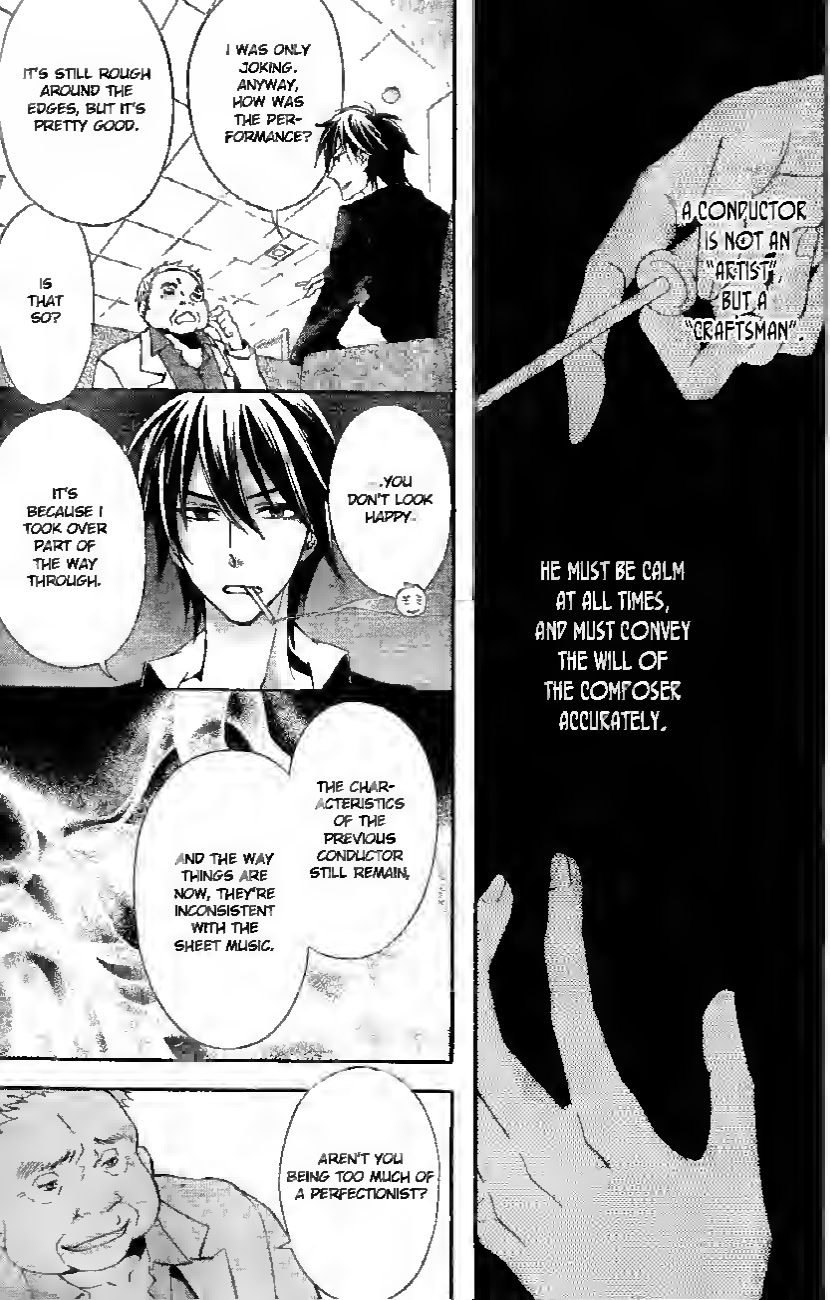
AC-DX "Conductor" Volumes 1 and 2
Author: Kaminaga Manabu Artist: Noki Ya
Two volumes, in two months!
Volume 1 goes on sale October 26 (Tuesday)
Volume 2 goes on sale November 26 (Friday)
Commemorating four months of comic releases authored by Kaminaga Manabu! The "Comic 42 Campaign is in progress! See the book band for more information.
Sing and dance, my lovely marionettes.
Celebrate the end with a tragic trio.
Day Three Part Two
The Conductor
Kadokawa Books
46 pages of Non-stop Mosaic Suspense
Author
Kaminaga Manabu
Artist
Noki Ya

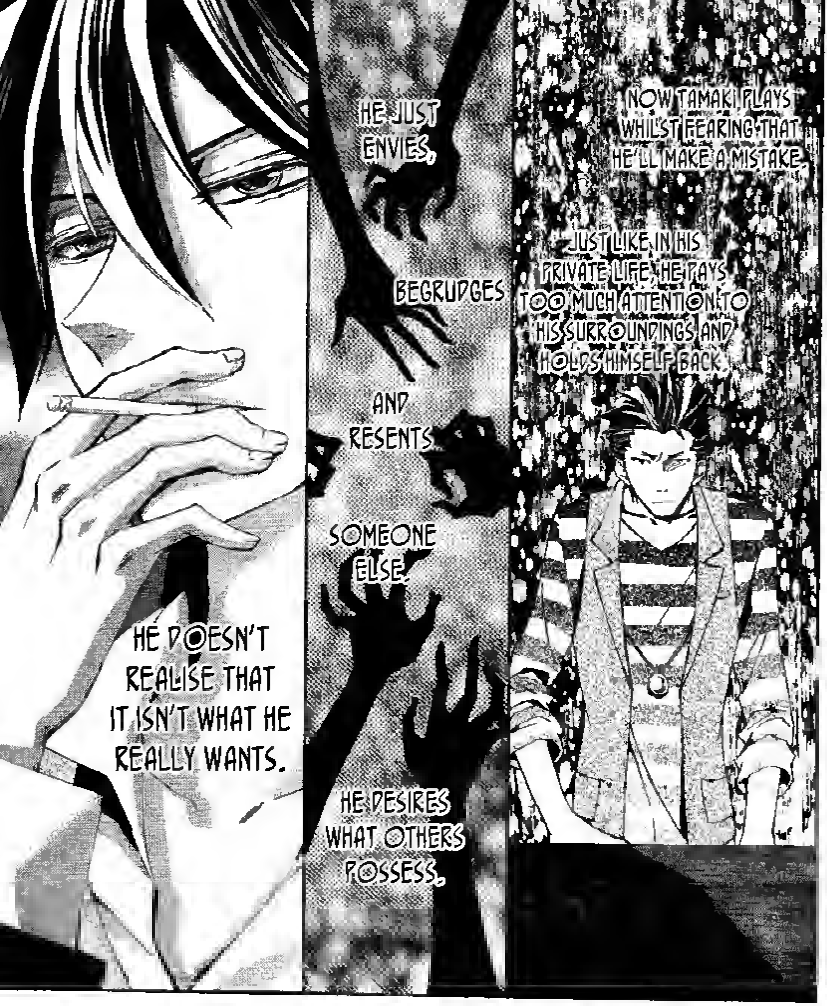
DAY THREE - YASUFUMI YUUKI

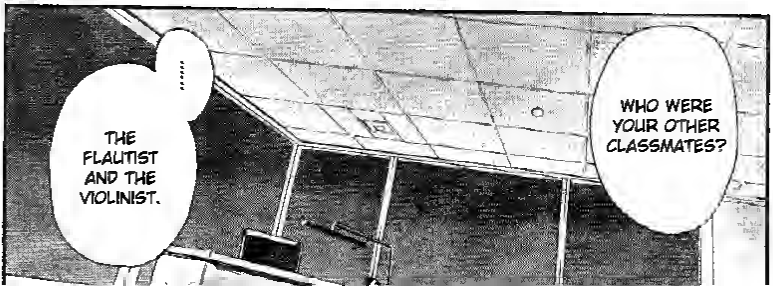
THAT FIG WHO SAID HE WANTED TO WATCH THE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BEFORE THE COMBINED REHEARSAL,
BUT FELL ASLEEP AND EVEN BEGAN SNORING HALFWAY THROUGH THE PRACTICE,
WILL YOU BE READY FOR THE SHOW?
YOU'RE HANGING AROUND HERE AND TAKING IT EASY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S QUITE A RUDE WAY OF PUTTING IT.
CAN'T EVEN CONTROL HIS OWN FEELINGS?
HE MAY BE A GOOD DIRECTOR, BUT HE'S NOT CUT OUT TO BE A CONDUCTOR.


A CONDUCTOR IS NOT AN "ARTIST", BUT A "CRAFTSMAN".
HE MUST BE CALM AT ALL TIMES, AND MUST CONVEY THE WILL OF THE COMPOSER ACCURATELY.
I WAS ONLY JOKING. ANYWAY, HOW WAS THE PERFORMANCE?
IT'S STILL ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, BUT IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
IS THAT SO?
...YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY.
IT'S BECAUSE I TOOK OVER PART OF THE WAY THROUGH.
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PREVIOUS CONDUCTOR STILL REMAIN.
AND THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW, THEY'RE INCONSISTENT WITH THE SHEET MUSIC.
AREN'T YOU BEING TOO MUCH OF A PERFECTIONIST?

MUSIC
HAS TO BE PERFECT.
PERFECTIONIST?
YOU ARE TOO CARELESS.
IS THAT SO?
I THOUGHT THE PIANO WAS PRETTY GOOD.
YES.
HE'S BEEN ATTRACTING ATTENTION SINCE HE WAS A STUDENT.
ONLY WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT.
HUH?
AH. I SEE. YOU WENT TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY
YES, I KNOW.


HE JUST ENVIES,
BEGRUDGES
AND RESENTS
SOMEONE ELSE.
HE DESIRES WHAT OTHERS POSSESS.
HE DOESN'T REALISE THAT IT ISN'T WHAT HE REALLY WANTS.
NOW TAMAKI PLAYS WHILST FEARING THAT HE'LL MAKE A MISTAKE.
JUST LIKE IN HIS PRIVATE LIFE, HE PAYS TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO HIS SURROUNDINGS AND HOLDS HIMSELF BACK.


.....
THE FLAUTIST AND THE VIOLINIST.
WHO WERE YOUR OTHER CLASSMATES?

AH~
THEY'RE BOTH PRETTY GIRLS.
AH...THE FLAUTIST...
WHAT WAS HER NAME?
YOU MEAN NAOMI KUCHIKI?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. HER...
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HER?
I LIKE HER TYPE.
SHE SEEMS SOMEWHAT DELICATE,
AND IT MAKES YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER.

I SEE...
WHAT WAS THE VIOLINIST'S NAME?
AKIHO MAYA.
SHE'S NO GOOD.
SHE'S GOT A PRETTY FACE, BUT SHE SEEMS LIKE A SEVERE PERSON.
THAT TYPE OF WOMAN ISN'T GOOD IN BED EITHER. I'M NOT INTERESTED.

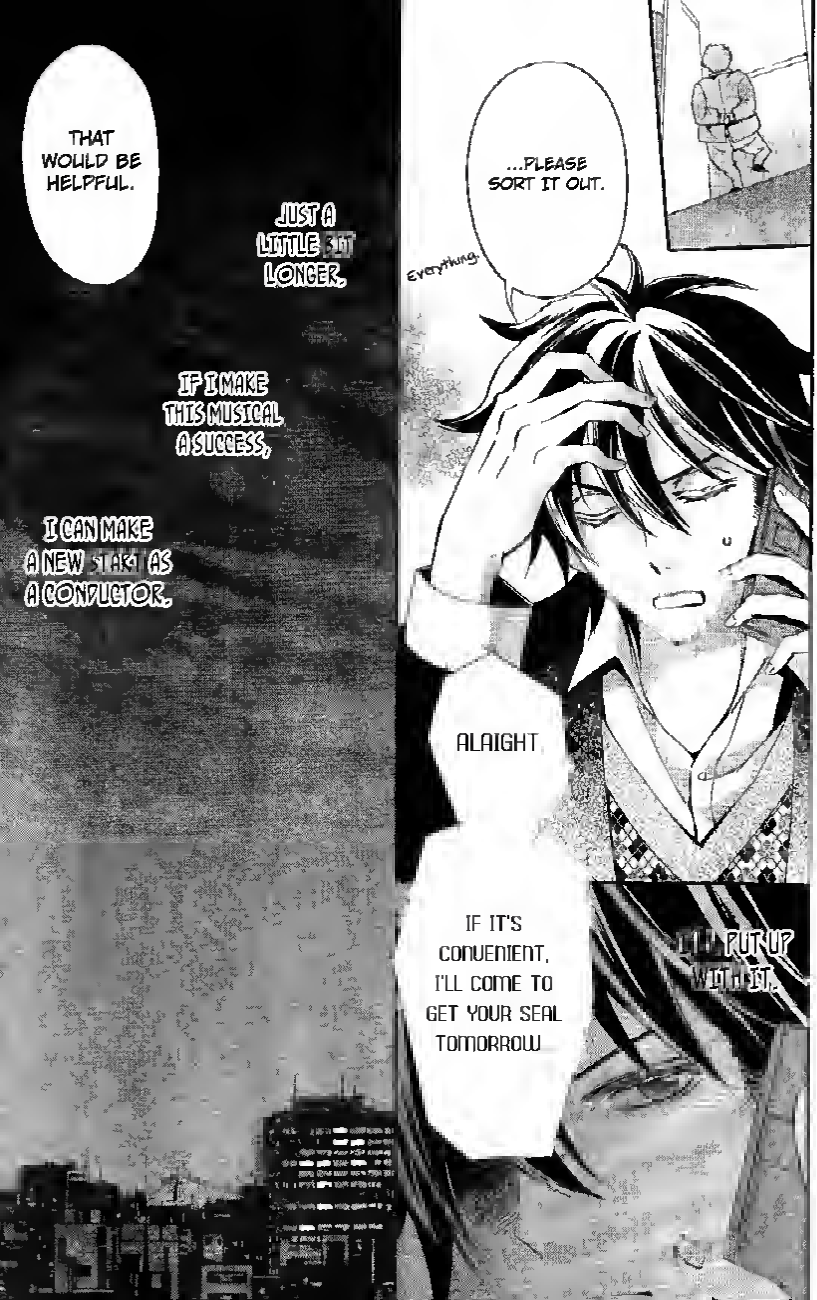
STOP THAT.

I PREFER NAOMI-CHAN AFTER ALL.
...SHE'S BEEN DATING SOMEONE SINCE UNIVERSITY
SHE'LL BE GETTING MARRIED SOON.
OF COURSE, THAT IS A LIE ...
BUT IF I DON'T DO THIS, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO SOMEONE GOOD-NATURED LIKE NAOMI ...
DON'T LOOK AT AKIHO LIKE THAT.

SORRY, MY PHONE IS RINGING...
BZZZ
BZZZ
RECEPTIO
HELLO?
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK. IT'S ME, AIBA
BZZZ
EVEN IF SHE'S GOT A FIANCÉ, PEOPLE DO GET COLD FEET AND THINGS LIKE THAT.
I STILL HAVE A CHANCE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THERE WAS A SEAL MISSING
FROM THE CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS WE FINALISED THE OTHER DAY.

SO?
THE CONTRACT WHICH STATES THAT I'LL RECEIVE FORTY PERCENT OF THE MUSICAL'S PROFITS.
I'D LIKE TO, BUT I CAN'T BRING THEM OVER RIGHT NOW
YOU'LL HAVE TO COME OVER TO THE OFFICE
ALRIGHT. IF YOU BRING THE DOCUMENTS TO ME, I'LL PUT MY SEAL ON THEM.

TOMORROW WE'LL START PRACTICING IN THE HALL WHERE THE MUSICAL WILL TAKE PLACE.
I'M PLANNING TO LOOK OVER THE WHOLE SCORE AGAIN. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FINISH UP?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT NOW.
I'M GOING HOME
THAT'S NO GOOD


...PLEASE SORT IT OUT.
Everything
I'LL PUT UP WITH IT.
ALAIGHT.
IF IT'S CONVENIENT, I'LL COME TO GET YOUR SEAL TOMORROW.
THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL.
JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER.
IF I MAKE THIS MUSICAL A SUCCESS,
I CAN MAKE A NEW START AS A CONDUCTOR.

THUD
THUD
THUD
CLATTER
"THE PROOF THAT YUUKI-SAN IS CONNECTED TO THE DEATH OF THE GERMAN VIOLINIST
IS IN THE LETTERBOX AT YOUR HOUSE."
DAY THREE - KAZUD TAMAKI

THERE'S NO RECIPIENT OR SENDER WRITTEN ON THE ENVELOPE.
THAT REPORTER, NOJIMA, MUST HAVE DELIVERED IT IN PERSON.
PROVE THAT YUUKI MURDERED SOMEONE...?
THE CONTENTS OF THIS CD
A GERMAN NEWSPAPER?

"A VIOLINIST WHO WAS A MEMBER OF AN ORCHESTRA WAS FOUND LYING ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF HER APARTMENT, BLEEDING FROM AN INJURY TO HER HEAD."
THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A VIOLINIST!
"THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WAS SUICIDE OR AN ACCIDENT."
"SHE WAS PREPARING FOR A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE THE FOLLOWING WEEK, SO IT'S UNLIKELY THAT IT WAS SUICIDE."
THUMP
"THERE WERE SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE AT THE SCENE, AND THERE IS A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT SHE WAS MURDERED."
THUMP
NO, I DON'T KNOW YET.
THE PROOF THAT YUUKI MURDERED THAT WOMAN ...
THUMP

A PHOTO?
THIS IS THE VICTIM...
IT MIGHT JUST BE MY IMAGINATION,
CLICK
BUT SHE SEEMS TO RESEMBLE AKIHO...

A PHOTO OF THE SCENE AFTER THE INCIDENT...
NO, NOT YET.
click
THIS PHOTO ONLY PROVES THAT THEY WERE DATING.
THE NEXT FILE IS...
gulp
THE PERSON THERE IS ...

RING
BEEP
HELLO?
RING
DID YOU LOOK AT THE FILES?
NOJIMA!
I'M SURE I'M NOT MISTAKEN
I DID...
HE'S CERTAINLY FAR FROM INNOCENT THOUGH
BUT IT'S NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN THAT HE DID IT.
YUUKI...!
RING

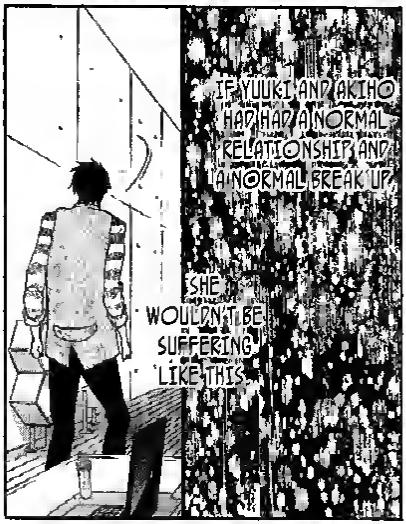
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE
YOU'RE MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN I THOUGHT.
NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO HESITATE.
IF HE WAS THE MURDERER
THINK ABOUT IT
YUUKI-SAN JUST HAPPENED TO RETURN TO JAPAN, TAKE THE VACANT POSITION FOR SUBSTITUTE CONDUCTOR, AND MEET HIS GIRLFRIEND FROM HIS DAYS AS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT
THEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND MIGHT BE THE NEXT VICTIM.
DO YOU REALLY THINK
THAT SUCH A COINCIDENCE IS POSSIBLE?

WHAT EXACTLY SHOULD I DO?
.....
THERE ARE TWO THINGS I WANT YOU TO DO
THE FIRST IS TO OBSERVE HIS ACTIONS.
IF HE DOES ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, REPORT IT TO ME.
WHAT'S THE OTHER THING?
ASK HIM WHY HE RETURNED TO JAPAN
I DON'T THINK HE'LL TELL THE TRUTH.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER. WHATEVER HE SAYS,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL SOMETHING FROM IT.
THERE'S ALSO ONE THING YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT.

OF COURSE, NO ONE MUST FIND OUT ABOUT ME,
OR THE FACT THAT YOU ARE WATCHING YUUHI-SAN
MAKE SURE THAT YUUHI-SAN, MAYA-SAN OR ANYONE ELSE DOESN'T GET SUSPICIOUS
WHY?
SHE MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE CHANGE IN YOUR BEHAVIOUR IF YOU'RE AROUND HER
YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM YOUR GIRLFRIEND FOR A WHILE
DO YOU WANT TO END UP GETTING KILLED SO YOU'LL KEEP QUIET?
IS THERE A REASON TO BE SO CAREFUL?

...I UNDERSTAND.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR POSITIVE RESPONSE
I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN LATER
click
YOU DON'T WANT HER TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS, DO YOU?
I'VE JUST...
BETRAYED A FRIEND...

IF HE WASN'T AROUND, I WOULDN'T BE HAVING THESE PITIFUL FFELINGS.
THAT'S RIGHT. I HATED HIM.


IF YUUKI AND AKIHO HAD HAD A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP, AND A NORMAL BREAK UP,
SHE WOULDN'T BE SUFFERING LIKE THIS.

BUT IF SOMEONE WERE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED IN GERMANY,

SO WHAT?

AKIHO MIGHT REMEMBER WHAT KIND OF MAN HE WAS AGAIN.
EVEN SO,
I STILL HAVE TO PROTECT IT.
CLATTER
LIFT
MY CURRENT LIFE
MAY BE BUILT ON SOMETHING FALSE?

DAY THREE - AKIHO MAYA
EVERYONE HAS AVOIDED TALKING TO NAOMI ABOUT HIM.
SINCE THAT INCIDENT FIVE YEARS AGO,
PLEASE TELL ME!
WE THOUGHT NAOMI DIDN'T TALK ABOUT HIM
BECAUSE SHE WAS SUFFERING FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL SHOCK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'D FORGOTTEN...
WHY ONLY NOW...
I'LL STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE RIGHT NOW.
RIGHT, I'LL CALL TAMAKI WHEN I GET HOME.
I DON'T WANT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO BE STRAINED ANY FURTHER BY THIS.
IF I DIRECTLY TELL HIM "STOP WORRYING ABOUT YUUKI AND BEING SO DEPRESSED!",
I'M SURE TAMAKI-KUN WILL ACCEPT THAT.

THE PERSON STANDING AT THE APARTMENT ENTRANCE...
...?
IT'S OKAY, I'M CARRYING PEPPER SPRAY.
IS IT THE MAN FROM YESTER-DAY?!
TAP
TAP
TAP
REACH
!

KYAAAA!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
PLEASE CALM DOWN.
I'M A POLICEMAN.
I'M ISHIKURA, FROM KUNITACHI POLICE STATION.
I'M SORRY I SURPRISED YOU.
THERE WAS ACTUALLY SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU. .
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO, NOT AT THIS APARTMENT.
BUT A BODY WAS DISCOVERED IN ANOTHER APARTMENT. I'M LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THAT.
A BODY...
IS IT A MURDER?

ALL I SAID WAS THAT A BODY HAD BEEN DISCOVERED.
WHY DID YOU THINK IT WAS A MURDER?
NO...
NO, I JUST...
WHAT?
I JUST THOUGHT SO BECAUSE THE POLICE WERE GOING AROUND ASKING QUESTIONS.
.....
UMM...
CAN I GO NOW?
NO, I HAVEN'T ASKED ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YET.
I'M ACTUALLY INVESTIGATING AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED IN KUNITACHI.
KUNITACHI? BUT TAMAGAWA JOSUI IS MORE THAN FORTY MINUTES AWAY FROM THERE.
IT TAKES THAT LONG BY TRAIN, BUT THE DIRECT DISTANCE IS ABOUT THREE KILOMETRES.

THIS PERSON IS CREEPY...
HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE SUSPICIOUS AROUND HERE RECENTLY?
BUT
I SEE...
I SEE I'M SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME.
There you go
HMM? I DON'T REMEMBER ANYONE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
SORRY, I DIDN'T GET TO ASK YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
KYAAA!
RUSTLE
PAT
EXCUSE ME.
whew

YOUR NAME.
AKIHO MAYA.
I SEE.
YOU'RE AKIHO MAYA-SAN.

SPIT
WHA...
WHAT WAS THAT?
"YOU'RE"...?
PLEASE!
HURRY UP AND ANSWER!
BEEP
CALLING
KAZUO TAMAKI
SLAM

BANG
WHY DIDN'T HE PICK UP?!
bzz
TAMAKI-KUN?!
NAOMI KUCHIKI
bzz
bzz
sigh
CLICK
POWER OFF
JEEZ...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

GRAB
CLATTER
THE RING
THAT'S TOO SMALL FOR ME.
...I'M SORRY.

DAY THREE – NAOMI KUCHIKI

I'M SORRY...
AKIHO DIDN'T ANSWER THE PHONE.
IF IT'S LIKE THAT WITH AKIHO, THEN IT'S NO GOOD ASKING TAMAKI-KUN OR YUUKI-KUN EITHER.
I MUSTN'T GIVE UP.

EVEN THOUGH I'M SURE HE WAS A STUDENT FROM THE SAME MUSIC SCHOOL AS ME,
THERE WAS NO ONE CALLED "TAKUMI" IN THE LIST OF GRADUATES.
RIGHT.
I'LL ASK DOCTOR MATSUZAKI FOR SOME ADVICE.
HELLO, DOCTOR?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU SEEM TO BE WORRIED

SORRY, THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED YOUR ADVICE ABOUT...
DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING?
FSSSH
THE SOUND OF RAIN...?
I GUESS HE'S OUTSIDE ...
YES, A LITTLE...
YES...
I SEE
SO YOU STILL HAVE A CONNECTION WITH THOSE THREE
THIS IS JUST A GUESS,

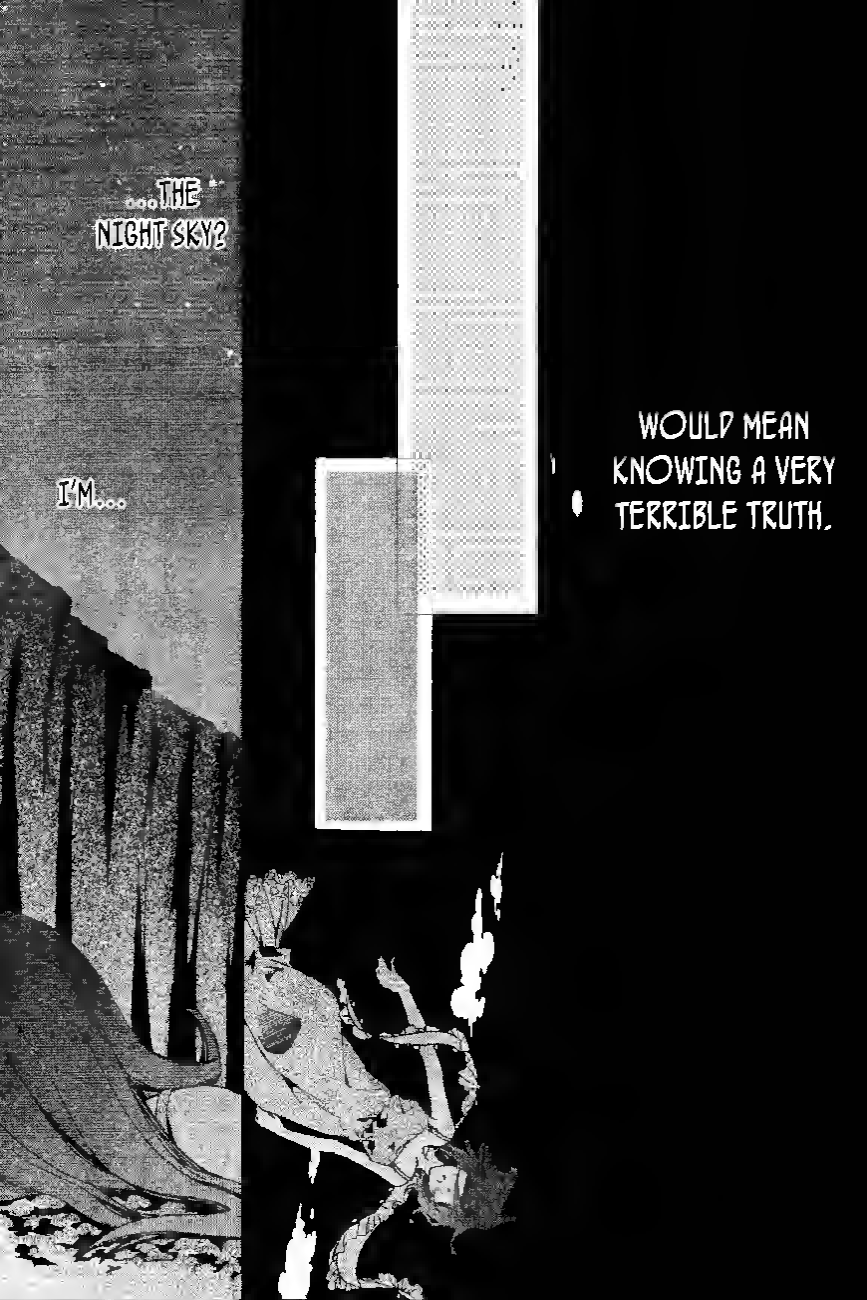
SOME-
THING...?
I WONDER
WHAT IT WAS.
BUT I'M SURE IT'S
GREATLY AFFECTING
YOUR MEMORIES AND
YOUR RELATIONSHIPS
WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
BUT IT
SEEMS THAT
SOMETHING
HAPPENED
FIVE YEARS
AGO

BUT HIS NAME
WASN'T IN
THE COLLEGE
REGISTER.
THERE MUST
BE A CLUE
BUT HOW WILL
I FIND OUT
WHAT IT WAS?

NO,
JUST THE STUDENTS FROM THE PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT.
WERE YOU LOOKING AT THE REGISTER WITH THE NAMES OF STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU?
I'LL GO TO MY OLD SCHOOL THEN.
I SEE!
THEN CHECK THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS SENIORS AND JUNIORS.
WHEN?
Uuh...
TOMORROW MORNING...
WAIT A MINUTE.
THEY MUST KEEP A REGISTER AT THE SCHOOL.
WHERE SHALL WE MEET?
IF I MOVE THAT LATER... IT SHOULD BE OKAY

ARE YOU COMING TOO, DOCTOR?
THAT WOULD BE REASSURING...
THAT'S WHAT I'M PLANNING TO DO.
I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF.
IS IT A PROBLEM?
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
THEN IT'S ALRIGHT, ISN'T IT?
IT'S THE MUSIC SCHOOL, RIGHT? SO HOW ABOUT WE MEET AT TAMAGAWA JOSUI STATION AT NINE?
...ALRIGHT.
OKAY, BYE THEN...

I FEEL AS IF KNOWING THE ANSWER TO THAT,
WAS HE JUST BEING KIND?
OR WAS IT BECAUSE OF A DIFFERENT FEELING?
WHY DID DOCTOR SAY HE'D ACCOMPANY ME?
WAS IT HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS MY COUNSELLOR?


...THE NIGHT SKY?
I'M...
WOULD MEAN KNOWING A VERY TERRIBLE TRUTH.

I CAN'T MOVE...!
INSIDE A HOLE?
THIS MAN IS

THE ONE WHO WAS HOLDING THE SKULL...
WHAT... I CAN'T HEAR...
PLACE
!
NO!
STOP!
DIG
DIG
DIG
DIG

huff
huff
THROB
WHAT WAS THAT DREAM!..?
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE THOSE DREAMS?
THROB
THROB
STOP!
JOLT

I SHOULD GET READY QUICKLY...
stagger
IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE.
WHAT IS THAT?
I'M INSIDE YOU AND YOU'RE INSIDE ME.
WHA...

WHAT IS THIS?
SLUMP
I'M INSIDE YOU AND YOU'RE INSIDE ME.
THAT MAKES IT SEEM LIKE I'VE GOT MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES.
The nightmares slowly creep up on Naomi...
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE JANUARY ISSUE – ON SALE NOVEMBER 24

The Conductor

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RAW PROVISION: AYU
TRANSLATION: YUKINITO
TYPESET: COZEN
CLEAN & REDRAW: BILLS_SPIRIT
PROOFREAD: ANACHORISM, KEESNTIHN, ZYTHERA
QUALITY CHECK: KAITO, YUKINITO